



STATE OF WASHINGTON

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

PO Box 47721 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7721 • (360) 407-6200 • FAX (360) 407-6215

June 30, 2004

TO: Conservation District Board of Supervisors and Managers

FROM: Debbie Becker
CREP PROGRAM

SUBJECT: **NEW** CREP PROGRAM MAINTENANCE POLICY

As perhaps you are unaware, the CREP program has been unfairly maligned last legislative session for being "wasteful" of limited taxpayer funds. The CREP Standing Committee reviewed the CREP maintenance figures and met with CREP planners to gain a good understanding on what is happening on the ground. After many conference calls, mini-meetings and lengthy debate a strong, credible and defensible maintenance policy was formulated and adopted by the Conservation Commission during their meeting in May.

The attached Policy (3 pages) is designed to give the desired guidance to conservation districts with some flexibility and assurances for supervisors on cost containment, while still providing for the over-arching goal of site success. This policy shall apply to all new contracts after July 1, 2004. For existing contracts, the remaining years of maintenance shall be prorated to comply with the policy.

We realize that with this policy, there is an additional level of recordkeeping that will be necessary at the district staff level. There are spreadsheet templates and a database available for use by your district. Andrew Phay and Wayne Chaudiere of Whatcom Conservation District are available to provide assistance to Westside districts and Cheryl Sonnen of Asotin Conservation District is available for eastside districts.

As is always the case when something new is launched, that there will be unanticipated bumps in the road. When this happens please give us your feedback. We are committed to assist with you and recommend necessary changes to the policy. Thank you in advance for your patience as we refine these processes. If you have comments or questions, please do not hesitate to give me or George Boggs a call. Members of the committee can also be contacted: They include:

George Boggs, Co-Chair Whatcom	Brit Ausman, Co-Chair Asotin	Alison Bower Walla Walla	Carolyn Kelly Skagit	Cheryl Sonnen Asotin
Denise Smee Clark	Howard Jaeger Cowlitz	Jamie Bails Snohomish	Joe Holtrop Clallam	Robert Barker Whatcom
Steve Keirn Clark	Terry Bruegman Columbia	Dave Peeler Ecology	Jackie Reid WSCC	Jim Peters WSCC
Lee Faulconer Agriculture	Larry Hooker NRCS	Rod Hamilton FSA	Debbie Becker WSCC	Ray Ledgerwood WSCC